Fritillaria camschatcensis (L.) Ker-Gawl
black lily
Liliaceae (Lily Family)

Status: State Sensitive
Rank: G5S2

General Description: Adapted from Hitchcock et al. (1969) and Douglas et al. (2001): A perennial herb from a bulb comprised of several larger, fleshy scales that are subtended by numerous small, rice-grain bulblets. The stems of this plant are sturdy and mostly 8 to 24 in. (20 to 60 cm) tall. The leaves are in 1 to 3 whorls of 5 to 11 leaves each, and there are usually 1-several leaves scattered above the uppermost whorl. The leaves are narrowly to broadly lanceolate, 1 2/3 to 4 in. (4 to 10 cm) long, and ¼ to 1 in. (5 to 25 mm) broad. There are 1 to 8 flowers that are spreading to pendent, narrowly campanulate, dark greenish-brown to brownish-purple, sometimes streaked or spotted with yellow, and ill-smelling. The tepals are ridged lengthwise on the inner surface along the veins, oblong-elliptic to elliptic-obovate, ¾ to 1¼ in. (20 to 30 mm) long, and ¼ to ½ in. (7 to 12 mm) broad. The stamens are included in the perianth. The filaments are slender and scarcely twice the length of the 1/8 to ¼ in. (3 to 5 mm) anthers. The styles are connate for about 1/16 to 1/8 in. (2 to 3 mm) above the ovary, the free portion is ¼ in. (6 to 8 mm) long, clavate, and stigmatic only at the tip. The capsule is ¾ to 1½ in. (20 to 35 mm) long and cylindric-ovoid.

Identification Tips: *Fritillaria camschatcensis* can be distinguished from *F. atropurpurea* and *F. lanceolata* by the nature of its tepals, filaments, and capsule. The tepals of *F. camschatcensis* are strongly ridged over the veins, its filaments are twice as long as the anthers, and its capsule is not winged. The tepals of *F. atropurpurea* and *F. lanceolata* are not prominently ridged lengthwise over the veins, their filaments are usually more than twice as long as the anthers, and their capsules are winged.

Phenology: Flowers from May to July.

Range: This species occurs from Kodiak Island and coastal Alaska south to Vancouver Island, and mainland British Columbia to southwestern Washington. In Washington, there are documented occurrences in Snohomish, King, and Whatcom counties, as well as, one occurrence on Camano Island (Island County). Historically, occurrences have been found in San Juan County.

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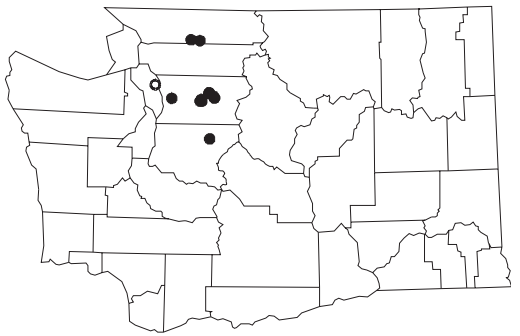
Known distribution of
Fritillaria camschatcensis
in Washington



● Current (1980+)
○ Historic (older than 1980)

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Photo by Ellen Kuhlman


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Habitat: In Washington, *F. camschatcensis* has been found near lakes and streams, and in wet meadows, salt marshes, marshes, sphagnum bogs, coniferous-forested wetlands, and deciduous lowland valley forest floors. It is generally found in moist open meadows, from coastal areas to around 3000 ft (914 m) in the mountains.

Ecology: This species has a relatively broad ecological amplitude, occurring in a variety of moist to wet habitats and in a wide range of elevations.

State Status Comments: All but four of the 14 recent occurrences in Washington are in Snohomish County. The other four occurrences are from King and Whatcom counties. This species has a relatively broad ecological amplitude, occurring in a variety of moist to wet habitats and in a wide range of elevations. Additional inventory is needed to assess the status of the species in the state.

Inventory Needs: Moist areas in Snohomish, King, and Whatcom counties should be systematically surveyed for additional populations.

Threats and Management Concerns: Current threats include timber harvest, trampling, hydrologic changes, and collecting.

References:

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, J.W. Thompson. 1969. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest* Part 1: *Vascular Cryptogams, Gymnosperms, and Monocotyledons.* University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA. 914 pp.

Douglas, G.W., G.B. Straley, D. Meidinger, and J. Pojar. 2001. *Illustrated Flora of British Columbia* vol. 6: *Monocotyledons (Acoraceae Through Najadaceae)*. Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, Victoria, British Columbia. 361 pp.

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